



Junior Grading & Player Selection Policy

With reference to the NENA Junior Competition Rules (as outlined in NENA Bylaws and NENA Management Document) the following set of rules have been endorsed to enable an equitable and consistent approach to facilitating the RSMU Netball Club's Junior Netball Program.

NENA Grading Definitions

Below outlines the grading definitions for the NENA Junior Competition (Trial Guidelines for 2024-2025, 2026 as outlined in the NENA Management Document).

2.1 The Junior NENA competition will consist of:

- 2 (two) x 17U grades named Inter 1 and Inter 2 and be competitive.
- 2 (two) x 13U grades named Junior 1 and Junior 2 and be competitive.
- 2 (two) x 10U grades named Sub Junior 1 and Sub Junior 2 and be non-competitive.

2.2 Age eligibility:

- Inter grades - a player must not turn 18 in the year of competition except if enrolled at secondary school of the current season (refer Junior Player Exemption);
- Junior grades - a player must not turn 14 in the year of competition.
- Sub Junior grades – a player must not turn 11 in the year of competition.
- Junior players must turn 7 years of age in the year of competition.

Junior Team Selection, Training & Court Time

17U – Inter 1 & 2

Team Selection

- To be graded into a team, players must attend trials which are to commence in preseason.
- Players are selected into the Inter 1 and 2 teams based on ability and level of development.
- The selection committee will consist of the Coaches and the Junior Coordinator (if and as required).
- Players in this age group may be invited to fill in for senior teams throughout the year.

Training

- Fun, inclusive and challenge all players at their individual levels of development.
- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, intermediate and advanced set plays, and netball strategies (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework](#) 'Intermediate/Advanced' for details)
- Players will likely play more specialised positions in this age group. However, depending on the composition of the team, players may be required to play a different position than they are accustomed, to benefit the whole team.
- All players are expected to attend trainings. Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*)

Court Time - Minor Rounds

- Coaches will endeavour to give equal court time taking into consideration absentees, injuries, player match ups, team numbers, combinations and individual behaviour at trainings and game days.

Court Time - Finals

- All players take the court during finals. It is at the coach's discretion as to how this time is divided by utilising the Rolling Substitution rule. This may mean that not every player will get equal playing time.

13U – Junior 1 & 2

Team Selection

- To be graded into a team, players must attend trials which are to commence in preseason.
- Players are selected into the Junior 1 and 2 teams based on ability and level of development.
- The selection committee will consist of the Coaches and the Junior Coordinator (as required)
- Players in this age group may be invited to fill in for Inter teams throughout the year.

Training

- Fun, inclusive and challenge all players at their individual levels of development.
- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, basic set plays and strategies (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework](#) 'Development 11-13 years' for details)
- Players will get exposure in a range of positions and may begin to focus and develop in a specific position.

- All players are expected to attend trainings. Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*)

Court Time - Minor Rounds

- Coaches will give equal court time taking into consideration individual ability, absentees, injuries, player match ups, team numbers, combinations and individual attitude at trainings and game days.

Court Time - Finals

- All players will take the court during finals. It is at the coach's discretion as to how this time is divided by utilising the Rolling Substitution rule. This may mean that not every player will get equal playing time.

10U – Sub Junior 1 & 2

Team Selection

- This is the first official Junior Netball grade in the NENA competition, and children must turn 7 in the year of competition to be eligible to play and train with this age group.
- Players in this age group may be invited to fill in for Junior teams throughout the year.

Training

- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, game sense (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework](#) 'Foundation NetSetGo' for details)
- Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*).

Games

- Game day gives everyone the exposure, experience, and enjoyment of game situations.
- All players, where possible, will get equal court time.
- There will not be set positions, players will rotate through all areas of the court.

Non-Attendance

- All registered players are expected to train each week, unless training has been cancelled by the Coach.
- If Players cannot make training, Coaches must be notified at least 3 hours prior to training via direct contact (SMS or Phone Call)
- If Players are unavailable to play on Game Day, they must inform the Coach prior to training for that week.
- Non-attendance at trainings will impact individual court time on Game Day:
 - Players who do not attend training, with or without notification to the Coach, will not start before a player who has attended training, regardless of reason for non-attendance.
 - Individual court time will be at the discretion of the coach for all reasons for non-attendance.
 - If a player is injured, ill or recovering from an injury, or away due to family holidays, **that time** will not count towards time 'off court'.
- If Non-attendance at training is due to illness or is away from School on a Friday prior to Game Day due to illness, it is recommended that they miss Game as a precaution and for the health and safety of other Players.

Player Behaviour

- All Players are expected to be kind, inclusive and respectful toward their teammates, coach, team managers, and primary carers and umpires.
- If a Player displays behaviour inconsistent with the above, the Coach may:
 - During Game Day – remove the Player from the Court at the next interval.
 - During Training – Ask the player to consider the behaviour, sit out for a period to be determined by the Coach. Depending on the severity of the behaviour, the Coach may contact the parent after training to discuss the behaviour and a disciplinary measure may be enforced.

MiniHawks Program

- MiniHawks is RSMU Netball Club's starter program for children designed to introduce them to netball basics, promote fun, and foster a love for the sport in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Children must turn 5 in the year of competition to be eligible to participate in MiniHawks.
- The MiniHawks program will commence at the start of Junior Training each Season and run for a minimum 8 weeks in total.

Association Nomination Selection Process

- NENA is affiliated with Netball SA, and as such, each year NENA are invited to submit association teams into Netball SA's Country Championships Carnival, which is held in Adelaide on the June Long Weekend.
- Pending the number of available players, NENA will seek to fill 5 teams:
 - A & B Grade (for players turning 18+ in the year of competition)
 - 17U (players cannot turn 18 in the year of competition)
 - 15U (players cannot turn 16 in the year of competition)
 - 13U (players cannot turn 14 in the year of competition)
 - 11U (players cannot turn 12 in the year of competition)
- RSMU NC are invited to nominate up to 5 eligible players per age group to trial for selection in the Association teams.

Eligibility

- To be eligible for nomination in the Junior Association Grades, players must:
 - Be financial members of the RSMU Netball Club, and;
 - Be graded into a Junior Team.

Selection Panel

- To determine Club selections, *RSMU NC Country Championships Coordinators* (two elected positions on the RSMU NC Committee at the AGM) shall form a Selection Panel inclusive of the Junior Coordinator and previous and current year's Junior Coaches, and any other independent selectors (if deemed appropriate to engage by the Selection Panel) to determine which players of the Club will be invited to nominate to trial.

Selection Criteria

- To be selected, players must demonstrate the age-appropriate skills, ability and capacity to play the game of netball at the level outlined in *NENA's Country Championships Selection Criteria* (See Appendix 1.) with guidance from the *Netball Australia Skill Development Framework*.
- Further to the *NENA's Country Championships Selection Criteria*, the Selection Panel will use their collective understanding of past seasons performance and behaviour and previous experience at Association level, in addition to current season performance and behaviour as additional criteria for Selection.
- Players will be selected as determined by majority vote of the Selection Panel.
- Not all nomination slots per age group are required to be filled if it is deemed by the Selection Panel that the Selection Criteria has not been met by enough players.
- If there are more than 5 players per age group who meet the Selection Criteria, the *RSMU NC CC Country Championships Representatives* will request to fill additional spots with the NENA Country Championships Committee.
- Individual player selection feedback is available from the *RSMU NC CC Country Championships Representatives* and will be aligned with the *NENA Country Championship Selection Criteria* if requested by the Player/Family Member.

NENA Availability Requirements

- Once being selected to nominate to trial by the Club, Players must also meet the availability requirements as determined by NENA as outlined in the official *Nomination Invitation* communication.

Selection Grievance

- Please refer to the *Dispute Resolution Process* outlined in the RSMU Netball Club's Bylaws (Bylaw 9).

Version Control

Date	Meeting Type	Description of Change	Version
Monday 17 th June 2024	General Meeting	New Policy.	v1.
Monday 7 th April 2025	General Meeting	Aligned Policy with updated Junior Competition Rules in NENA Management Document. Added section 'Association Nomination Selection Process' and 'MiniHawks' Program	v2.

